

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PANAMA 04187 131755Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EUR-12 AF-10 SSO-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAB-02 ACDA-12

HA-05 MCT-01 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /113 W

-----042532 131758Z /75

O 131747Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7486

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T PANAMA 04187

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, XA, CU, UR, PN

SUBJECT: REACTION TO SOVIET AND CUBAN ROLE IN AFRICA

REF: STATE 148740

1. PANAMA HAS FEW OFFICIAL TIES WITH AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND, GIVEN ITS PREOCCUPATION WITH THE PANAMA CANAL ISSUE, DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE FOCUSED TOO MUCH ON THE SOVIET AND CUBAN ROLE IN AFRICA. WHILE PANAMA IS SYMPATHETIC TO CUBA AND ADMIRES SOME OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ITS REVOLUTION, IT UNDERSTANDABLY HAS RESERVATIONS WHEN THE QUESTION OF INTERVENTION BY ONE NATION IN THE AFFAIRS OF ANOTHER COMES INTO THE PICTURE. TO MAINTAIN ITS CREDENTIALS WITH THE THIRD WORLD, HOWEVER, AND TO REMAIN ON FRIENDLY TERMS WITH CUBA, PANAMA WOULD PROBABLY STOP FAR SHORT OF AN OUTRIGHT CONDEMNATION OF CUBA'S DEALINGS IN AFRICA. AS ONE RECENT PRESS ANALYSIS OF THE ISSUE PUT IT: "CUBA IS SERVING A DUAL ROLE IN AFRICA: PROPAGATING THE REVOLUTION OF FIDEL CASTRO AND CARRYING OUT THE DIRTY WORK OF RUSSIA AT THE SAME TIME."

2. AS TO ATTENDANT PROBLEMS, PANAMA APPEARS TO UNDERSTAND

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 PANAMA 04187 131755Z

THE IMPACT OF THIS PROBLEM ON SUCH ISSUES AS THE SALT AND U.S.-CUBAN RELATIONS. THE PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT IS VERY DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT AND WOULD, WE BELIEVE, SINCERELY REGRET ANY DELAY OR IMPASSE THAT MIGHT DEVELOP BECAUSE OF THE SOVIET/CUBAN ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA. AT THE SAME TIME, THOUGH, PANAMA PROBABLY FEELS NO LITTLE ADMIRATION FOR CUBA'S "STANDING

UP" TO THE U.S. AND GOING ITS OWN WAY EVEN IF IT MEANS
TROUBLE AS FAR AS NORMALIZATION OF ITS RELATIONS WITH
THE U.S. IS CONCERNED.

3. THE EMBASSY DOUBTS THAT PANAMA HAS ANY "PRESCRIPTION"
FOR HANDLING ATTENDANT PROBLEMS -- THEY ARE PROBABLY JUST
GLAD THAT THEY ARE, AT LEAST IN THE DIRECT SENSE,
SOMEBODY ELSE'S PROBLEMS.

4. EMBASSY HAS NO PARTICULAR COMMENT ON THE QUESTION OF
"DIVISIVENESS" AMONG LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES.
JORDEN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, FOREIGN RELATIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PANAMA04187
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780247-0157
Format: TEL
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780665/aaaaceaz.tel
Line Count: 74
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4154498a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 148740
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2373534
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REACTION TO SOVIET AND CUBAN ROLE IN AFRICA
TAGS: MPOL, PEPR, XA, CU, UR, PN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4154498a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014